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Congress of the United States
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December 06, 2017

Chairman Ajit Pai
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai,

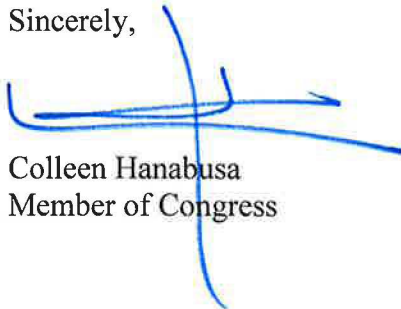
I write to you regarding the issue of fraudulent comments submitted during the comment period for "Restoring Internet Freedom" (WC Docket No. 17-108). I urge you to postpone consideration of the proposal until the veracity of the comments has been investigated.

In May 2017, it was reported that tens of thousands of comments submitted to the FCC regarding "net neutrality" were on behalf of fake or stolen identities. FCC spokesman Brian Hart also claimed that there were other suspect submissions from fake and otherwise suspicious email addresses. It is imperative that these comments be investigated in order to preserve the integrity of the public comment process and to help prevent these situations in the future.

Public comment periods are an essential component of any rulemaking decision; it is the primary avenue through which the general public may participate in the administrative decision-making process. Upon information and belief, it appears the "Restoring Internet Freedom" comment period has been compromised due to the overwhelming number of fake submissions and the criminal act of submitting comments through stolen identities. To maintain the integrity of this important process and to honor the genuine input of Americans, I urge you to investigate all fake comments and delay consideration of the proposal until you can be certain that fake comments have not influenced the process.

I thank you for your attention to this important matter and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

February 8, 2018

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
U.S. House of Representatives
422 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Hanabusa:

Thank you for your letter regarding the *Restoring Internet Freedom Declaratory Ruling, Report and Order, and Order (Order)*, in which you requested that the Federal Communications Commission delay the December 14, 2017 vote. I respectfully did not take that course of action for the reasons discussed below.

The vote on the *Restoring Internet Freedom Order* marked the culmination of an unprecedented level of public participation and transparency. After the Commission issued its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in May 2017, it received millions of public comments related to the proposal. The *Order* amply addressed this rulemaking record over nearly 200 pages containing well over one thousand footnotes. In addition, pursuant to my transparency initiative, the agency released the draft over three weeks before the Commission voted. This gave the public an opportunity to review the draft and submit further feedback before the scheduled vote took place.

The Commission is grateful to all commenters who engaged the legal and public policy questions presented in this rulemaking. These comments ensured that the Commission considered all important aspects of its proposal to reclassify broadband Internet access service as an "information service" and restore the "light-touch" regulatory framework that fostered a free and open Internet in the United States prior to 2015.

To be sure, this proceeding carried the potential for advocates on either side to abuse the process to create an appearance of numerical advantage. But instead of focusing on automated or form submissions, the Commission has prioritized consideration of substantive comments that bear on the legal and public policy consequences of its actions. Indeed, the Commission followed the well-established notice-and-comment process prescribed in the Administrative Procedure Act and the "substantial evidence" standard courts have applied in this context. The result was an order consistent with both the Communications Act and the public interest.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Your views are important and will be entered into the record of the proceeding. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Ajit V. Pai".

Ajit V. Pai